



County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health

Marvin J. Southard, D.S.W.
Director of Mental Health

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

“Law Enforcement and Mental Health Conference” Addresses Children and Adolescent Issues of Suicide and Trauma

LOS ANGELES (Thu., June 15, 2006) -- More than 400 law enforcement, mental health and emergency first responder professionals participated in the Seventh Annual “Law Enforcement and Mental Health Conference” held at the Arboretum of Los Angeles County located in Arcadia this morning.

The conference was designed to provide law enforcement, mental health and emergency personnel with practical skills and knowledge for responding in partnership with members of the community who have experienced a traumatic event.

The first session titled “Voices from the Grave: The Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team” featured Dr. Michael Pines, who chairs the Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) Operations Committee, serves as an advisor for Disaster Mental Health Services at the Greater Los Angeles Chapter of the American Red Cross, and established the first Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team, addressed the attendees with the five warning signs and risk factors for suicidal children and youth; provided a review of the Los Angeles County Child & Adolescent Suicide Review Team and the case review process; and concluded his presentation on how law enforcement personnel and first responders can assist survivors and the Child & Adolescent Review Team.

The second session titled “Creating Partnerships to Create Trauma-Informed Services for Children” presented by Dr. Susan J. Ko, Director of the Service Systems Core at the National Center for Child Traumatic Stress at UCLA focused on the impact of child trauma (domestic & community violence, death/loss, etc.), and specific action law enforcement can take to help children and their families; five core concepts on what law enforcement should know when working with children impacted by domestic violence; and introduced a training platform that utilizes a collaborative model to integrate mental health and law enforcement to create trauma-informed systems.

The half-day conference was presented by the County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s Department, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Los Angeles Police Department and Los Angeles County Mental Health Association.

CONTACT: Ken Kondo, Public Information Officer, (213) 738-4740

###